

The Heritage of Christmas  
In Sunday Worship



A Celebration  
Of The Christmas Gift  
Rite I as a Christmas Celebration

**Pastor:** Every Sunday we celebrate Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. Every Sunday we celebrate the Gift of God the Son to us. Every Sunday we are privileged to hear and sing the songs of Salvation given to us by God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ. This Christmas we show how our regular worship reflects the gift of God's Son to us that first Christmas.

Our worship services are not centered our service to God in His Awesome Majesty, but as Lutheran Christians, our worship services are centered on His service to us through the Gift of the Christ Child that very first Christmas. Our worship service celebrates the Christ Child's gifts to us.

This Christmas program we learn how God gives us the gift of Christmas every Sunday through our regular worship.

**Entrance: Children Sing Hymn 117 As Each Happy Christmas**

As each happy Christmas  
Dawns on earth again,  
Comes the holy Christ Child  
To the hearts of men.

Enters with His blessing  
Into every home,  
Guides and guards our footsteps,  
As we go and come.

All unknown, beside me,  
He will ever stand,  
And will safely lead me  
With His own right hand.

**Pastor:** There are four parts to our worship service: The Service of Preparation, The Service of the Word, The Service of Holy Communion, and the Giving of Thanks

**Child:** The First Part of our Worship Service is the Service of Preparation.

**Child:** The Service of Preparation teaches us of our Sin and our need for a Savior.

1

**Child: Genesis 3:22-24**

Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

So He drove out the man;  
and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden,  
and a flaming sword which turned every way,  
to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Congregation: Hymn 130 I Sing the Birth**

**Child:** In the Service of Preparation we receive the forgiveness that the Babe at Bethlehem won for us on the Cross.

**All Sing: Hymn 111 When Sinners See Their  
Lost Condition  
verses 1-2**

When sinners see their lost condition  
And feel the pressing load of sin,  
And Jesus cometh on His mission  
To heal the sin-sick heart within,  
All grief must flee before His grace,  
And joy divine will take its place.

When Jesus enters meek and lowly

To fill the home with sweetest peace;  
When hearts have felt His blessing holy  
And found from sin complete release,  
Then light and calm within shall reign  
And hearts divided love again.

**Child:** We sing the song the Angels sang to the  
Shepherds in celebration of our Savior's  
forgiveness.

**Children Sing: Hymn 116 Angels We Have  
Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.

2

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo;  
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo;  
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo;  
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

See, within a manger laid,  
Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth,  
Lend your voices, lend your aid  
To proclaim the Savior's birth!

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo;  
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

**Child:** In the Service of Preparation God serves us by forgiving us our sins.

**Child:** And because God has forgiven us we dare pray in the name of our Immanuel, our God-with-us, the prayer that focuses us on the teaching of God's word for the day.

**All Sing: Hymn 110 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel verse 1**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Child** The Second Part of our Worship Service is the Service of the Word.

3

**Child:** Now God has forgiven us through the Absolution.

**Child:** Now we are truly free from the guilt of sin.

**Child:** Now we are ready to hear the teaching of His Word.

**Child:** Now God serves us by teaching us His Word.

**Child: Genesis 3:14-15**

So the LORD God said to the serpent:  
"Because you have done this,  
You are cursed more than all cattle,  
And more than every beast of the field;  
On your belly you shall go,  
And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.  
And I will put enmity  
Between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her Seed;

He shall bruise your head,  
And you shall bruise His heel."

**Child: Isaiah 7:14**

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:  
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a  
Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

**Child: Luke 2: 1-5**

And it came to pass in those days  
that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus  
that all the world should be registered.  
This census first took place while Quirinius was  
governing Syria.  
So all went to be registered, everyone to his own  
city.

Joseph also went up from Galilee,  
out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea,  
to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem,  
because he was of the house and lineage of David,  
to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who  
was with child.

**Child: Luke 2:6-7**

So it was, that while they were there,  
the days were completed for her to be delivered.  
And She brought forth her firstborn Son,  
and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him  
in a manger, because there was no room for them in  
the inn.

**Child:** God has served us with the reading of His  
Word.

**Child:** Now we confess our faith.

**Child:** Now we are to keep in mind the whole plan  
of God;

**Pastor:** We confess The Apostles' Creed, p. 46

**All Sing Hymn 146 What Child Is This, verses  
1-2**

What Child is this, who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the  
Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the  
Son of Mary!

**Child:** God wants us to read and to hear His Word.

**Child:** God also wants the Message of Christmas to be preached.

**Child:** God serves us through the preaching of His called messenger.

**Sermon; John 1:9-14**

That was the the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not recognize Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Child:** God has served us with His teaching.

**Child:** God calls upon His Children to Pray.

**Child:** We pray as He taught us through the Christ Child.

**Pastor:** Let us pray The Lord's Prayer.

**Child:** The Third Part of Our Worship Service is the Service of Holy Communion.

**Child:** The sweet, innocent Child born in Bethlehem was born to live a life of service to sinners.

**Child:** Every good work He did was done so that He could credit it to us.

**Child:** He was born to take our place.

**Child:** He credits us with His righteous life.

**Child:** And He took the blame for our unrighteousness.

**Child:** And He gives us that gift through His Body and Blood in The Lord's Supper.

**Children Sing: 119 Away in a Manger.**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where  
He lay,  
The Little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the  
sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

**Congregation Sing 331 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth verses 1-2.**

**Child:** The Final part of Our Worship Service is the Giving of Thanks.

**Child:** We are blessed by God.

**Child:** He has given us His Onlybegotten Son in the

Child of Bethlehem.

**Child:** This infant was born for us. He lived for us.  
He died for us. He rose for us.

**Child:** He is God who became man to serve us and  
save us.

## **Hymn 127, I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes**

**Everyone sing verse 1 in English**

6

**Children sing verse 1 in Norwegian**

Jeg er saa glad hver julekveld  
Ti da blev Jesus fodt,  
Da lys te stjer nen som en sol,  
Og engle sang saa sodt

**Everyone sing verses 2-5 in English**

**Children sing verse 6 in Norwegian**

Jeg er saa glad hver julekveld  
Da synger vi hans pris  
Da aapner han for alle smaa  
Sit sode paradis

**Everyone sing verse 6 in English**

**Closing Prayer**

**All sing Silent Night (ELH 140)**

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon Virgin mother and Child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy Night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar;  
Heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is

Born!"

Silent night! Holy Night!

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night! Holy Night!

Wondrous star, lend thy light;

With the angels let us sing,

Alleluia to our King;

Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is

Born.